

Foodgrain distribution to BPL families

3232. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains distributed to each consumer of different categories, per week;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are demands from the States that the percentage of BPL families in the respective States would be much more than what is estimated at present; and

(c) whether Government are going to take any measure to make a survey afresh to assess the percentage correctly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) At present foodgrains are allocated by the Central Government to the State and UT Governments at the rate of 35 kgs. per month per household for BPL and AAY families. For APL families the quantity allocated depends upon the availability of foodgrains in the Central pool. The distribution of foodgrains through Fair Price Shops to PDS beneficiaries is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. Some of the States/UTs allow issuing of foodgrains on weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis. Others allow in any number of instalments as per the convenience of the beneficiaries. However, in all States the total quantities issued for a month is restricted to entitled quantity of foodgrains per month per household.

(b) Yes, Sir. The allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to the States/UTs is made on the basis of number of households estimated on the basis of poverty estimate of Planning Commission for 1993-1994 projected on the population projection of Registrar General Census as on 01.03.2000 or the number of Ration Cards issued by the State Government whichever is less.

However, some States have requested to consider the higher number of BPL families in view of more ration cards issued by them.

(c) No, Sir.